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Patent Attorney's
Docket No.73891

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re. Patent Application of:
ANDERSSON, Kurt

Group Art Unit:
3724

Application No.:
10/708,259

Examiner:
Peterson, Kenneth E

Filed: 20 February 2004

Title: Sheet Metal Section

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir,

Extension of time under §1.136(a) is hereby requested and the required fee is hereby authorized to be paid from our deposit account as per the accompanying fee sheet.

In response to the Office Action of 22 June 2005, a new corrected abstract is submitted herewith as well as amended claims which now are believed to define novel and non-obvious subject matter over the cited US patent specifications 3 388 582 (*Wessstrom et al.*), 4 641 559 (*Castiglioni*), 4 470 331 (*Eitling et. al.*) and 171 524 (*Medbury*). The amended wording of the new main claim has support *inter alia* in the description, paragraphs 5, 6, 11, 12 and 23.

In support of the novelty and non-obviousness of the new main claim, it is requested that the following argumentation be considered:

The main claim now relates to "a method of cutting and machining" and now includes steps beyond the cross cutting of the continuous strip of sheet metal into lengths. The cross cutting is now defined more distinctly as the step of "cutting the continuous strip into finite lengths by making a wave shaped cut between each length and the immediately subsequent length thereby leaving the forward edge and the following edge of each sheet metal length wave shaped". The claim then includes the steps of firmly holding in a subsequent operation, said forward and following edges of each length by means of clamps covering at least the wave shaped forward and following edges of each sheet metal length and
- machining the exposed portion of each said firmly held length by pressing, stamping or die cutting.

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All of the cited prior art disclose longitudinal cutting of sheet metal strips. Two of the documents *Wesslom et al.* and *Eitling et. al.* mention savings in materials by using the wave shaped longitudinal edges of the strips when cutting out sheet metal discs. There will of course be less waste in such a "cookie-cutter" process if one can start with curved edges approximating the disc shapes to be cut out. These known "cookie-cutter" processes have little to do with the method of the present invention.

The present invention relates to an entirely different concept and uses the lengths with wave-shaped forward and following edges in a machining process, preferably pressing, wherein at least the amplitude of the wave-shaped edges is covered by the clamping means, which is used to firmly hold the forward and following edges of the sheet metal length during pressing. These firmly held forward and following edges are generally cut off and scrapped after the pressing. Making a wave shaped cut instead of a straight cut when cutting out the sheet metal blanks allows the same required edge width (d) to be clamped but only consumes half the sheet metal for discarded edges. Using a wave shape cut has, surprisingly, not resulted in any reduction in effective gripping. And, even more surprisingly, it has resulted in easier metal deformation during pressing, exerting less stress on the clamping portions.

In view of the new amended claims and corrected abstract it is now believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
By:



Timothy Platt
Reg. No. 43,003

Customer No. 26288
Albihns Stockholm AB
P.O. Box 5581
SE-114 85 Stockholm, Sweden

Date: 31 October, 2005

Appendix I: Amended Claims
Appendix II: Corrected Abstract